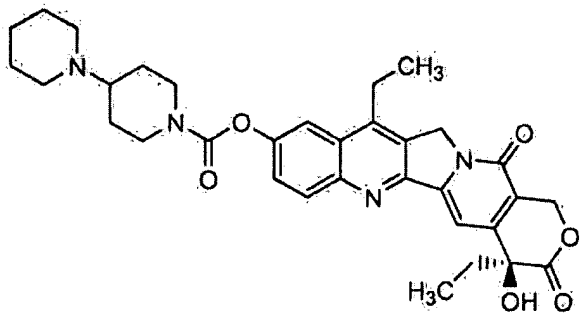
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

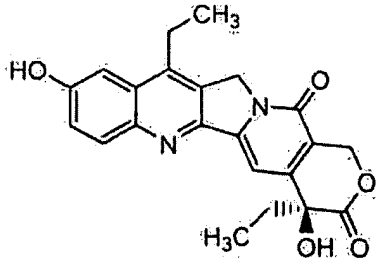
Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of preparation of 7-ethyl-10-[4-(1-piperidino)-1-piperidino]-carbonyloxy-camptothecin of formula I



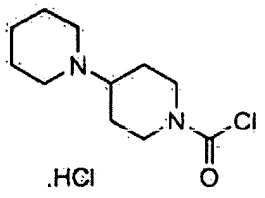
(I)

wherein 7-ethyl-10-hydroxycamptothecin of formula II



(II)

is subjected to a condensation reaction with 1-chlorocarbonyl-4-piperidinopiperidine hydrochloride of formula III



(III)

in a polar aprotic solvent~~, e.g. in acetonitrile,~~ in the presence of 4-dimethylaminopyridine.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein 1-chlorocarbonyl-4-piperidinopiperidine hydrochloride is employed in an amount of 1.3 to 3 mol~~, preferably in an amount of 1.6 to 1.9 mol,~~ per 1 mol of 7-ethyl-10-hydroxycamptothecin.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein 4-dimethylaminopyridine is employed in an amount of 1.5 to 4 mol~~, preferably in an amount of 1.8 to 2.2 mol,~~ per 1 mol of 7-ethyl-10-hydroxycamptothecin.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the polar aprotic solvent is employed in an amount of 400 to 600 mol~~, preferably in an amount of 430 to 460 mol,~~ per 1 mol of 7-ethyl-10-hydroxycamptothecin.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the condensation reaction is carried out at a temperature of 70 to 80 °C~~, preferably at a temperature of 73 to 77 °C~~.

6. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the polar aprotic solvent is acetonitrile.

7. (New) The method according to claim 2, wherein 1-chlorocarbonyl-4-piperidinopiperidine hydrochloride is employed in an amount of 1.6 to 1.9 mol per 1 mol of 7-ethyl-10-hydroxycamptothecin.

8. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein 4-dimethylaminopyridine is employed in an amount of 1.8 to 2.2 per 1 mol of 7-ethyl-10-hydroxycamptothecin.

9. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the polar aprotic solvent is employed in an amount of 430 to 460 mol per 1 mol of 7-ethyl-10-hydroxycamptothecin.

10. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the condensation reaction is carried out at a temperature of 73 to 77°C.